

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously presented) A power mower including a deck lift system, wherein the deck lift system for raising and lowering at least a cutting deck of the mower, the deck lift system comprising:

a deck lift lever for selectively raising and lowering the cutting deck;

a pivoting latch for selectively engaging a first projection or bolt in order to maintain the cutting deck at a height;

a spring coupled to the pivoting latch in a manner such that the spring biases the pivoting latch in a first rotational direction toward the first projection or bolt when a longitudinal axis of said spring is on a first side of a pivot axis of the latch, and the spring biases the pivoting latch in a second rotational direction, opposite said first rotational direction, away from the first projection or bolt when the longitudinal axis of the spring is at least partially on a second side of the pivot axis of the latch; and

wherein the longitudinal axis of the spring is switched from the first side of the pivot axis of the latch to the second side of the pivot axis of the latch during raising of the cutting deck as the deck lift lever is moved so that as the deck lift lever is moved the latch is first biased by the spring in the first rotational direction toward the first projection or bolt and is thereafter biased by the spring in the second rotational direction away from the first projection or bolt when the longitudinal axis of the spring is switched to the second side of the pivot axis of the latch.

10. (Original) The power mower of claim 9, wherein the longitudinal axis of the spring is switched back from the second side of the pivot axis of the latch to the first side of the pivot axis of the latch during lowering of the cutting deck.

11. (Original) The power mower of claim 9, wherein the deck lift system further comprises:

a second projection or bolt; and

wherein when the spring is on the first side of the pivot axis the spring biases the latch in the first direction toward the first projection or bolt so that a hook of the latch can latch onto the first projection or bolt, and when the spring is on the second side of the pivot axis the spring biases the latch in the second direction away from the first projection or bolt and toward the second projection or bolt so that the latch contacts the second projection or bolt.

12. (Currently amended) The power mower of claim 11, wherein pulling of the lever causes first, second, third, and fourth deck lift pull rods to move toward a rear of the mower thereby causing ~~which in turn causes~~ respective first, second, third and fourth deck lift arms to rotate and causing ~~cause~~ the cutting deck to be raised at four different locations.

13. (Currently amended) A power mower including a deck lift system, the deck lift system of the power mower comprising:

a deck lift lever for selectively raising and lowering the cutting deck;

wherein pulling of the lever causes an elongated horizontally aligned bar to rotate thereby causing ~~which in turn causes~~ first, second, third, and fourth elongated deck lift pull rods to move toward a rear of the mower and ~~which in turn causes~~ respective first, second, third and fourth deck lift arms to rotate and cause the cutting deck to be raised via at least four different locations; and

wherein when the deck lift lever is pulled each of the first, second, third and fourth elongated deck lift pull rods moves rearwardly in its entirety toward the rear of the mower in a direction substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the respective pull rod so that during such movement the longitudinal axes of each of said first, second, third and fourth respective pull rods remain at approximately the same respective angular orientation(s) relative to ground on which the mower is located.

14. (Original) The power mower of claim 13, wherein the mower comprises a foot platform that is at least partially located between first and second rear drive wheels.

15. (Original) The power mower of claim 14, wherein the mower is a zero radius turning mower wherein the first and second rear drive wheels are each independently driveable in forward and reverse directions so as to enable the mower to make zero radius turns about a vertical turning axis.